

Message Text

SECRET

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S/S-O SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 165186

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR AMBASSADOR LOW ONLY FROM DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, RH, UK, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH-NKOMO TALKS PROPOSAL

REF: LILONGWE 1022

1. SECRETARY VANCE HAS AGREED WITH DAVID OWEN ON FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION: (A) SECRET BRITISH INTER-MEDIARY WILL APPRISE KAUNDA (HOPEFULLY TOMORROW), WITHOUT ENDORSING IT, OF SMITH PROPOSAL FOR SECRET MEETING WITH NKOMO. KAUNDA'S REACTION WILL BE SOUGHT AND SUGGESTION MADE THAT IF KAUNDA SEES MERIT IN SUCH A MEETING, HE MAY WISH TO CONSULT WITH NYERERE AND MACHEL; AND, MEANWHILE, (B) YOU AND JOHNNY WILL FLOAT WITH NKOMO EARLIER SMITH PROPOSAL FOR SECRET ALL PARTIES MEETING OF PRINCIPALS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SMITH-NKOMO MEETING.

2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOREGOING, AT LEAST FOR 1(A), ARE
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BEING TRANSMITTED BY FCO SIMULTANEOUSLY TO LUSAKA AND WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING APPROVAL HERE OF 1(A) INSTRUCTIONS, GREEN LIGHT WILL BE FLASHED TO INTERMEDIARY IN LUSAKA.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US HERE TO WHAT EXTENT YOU (OR JOHNNY) ARE INFORMED AS TO DETAILS OF 1(A) EXERCISE. IN ANY EVENT, TREAT THIS MESSAGE AS FYI FOR YOUR EYES

ONLY AND DO NOT SHARE WITH JOHNNY.

4. THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 1(A) APPROACH, AS THEY
ORIGINALLY CAME TO US, WOULD HAVE CLEARLY SUGGESTED A
US-UK DISPOSITION TO INVOLVE OURSELVES FURTHER IN THE
SMITH INSIDE APPROACH TO NKOMO BUT WITHOUT ANY
CONSULTATION WITH NYERERE. WE ALSO SHARED MANY OF
THE MISGIVINGS WHICH YOU SET FORTH IN PARAS 2 AND 3
OF REFTEL. ACCORDINGLY, AS A RESULT OF TELEPHONE
CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND OWEN THIS
AFTERNOON, WE ARE NOW EXPECTING MOMENTARILY A DRAFT OF
MODIFIED INSTRUCTIONS. HOPEFULLY THESE WILL MAKE
CLEAR THAT UK INTERMEDIARY IS SIMPLY TRANSMITTING
THE LATEST SMITH PROPOSAL FOR KAUNDA'S CONSIDERATION
AND THAT OF HIS TWO PRINCIPAL FRONT LINE COLLEAGUES.
AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE HAVE VETOED THE IDEA OF
USING A U.S. PLANE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT REVISED PROCEDURE
WILL INVOLVE SOME RISK, BUT IT IS AGREED THAT WE MUST
ACT ON SMITH'S PROPOSAL IN SOME MANNER. HOW SMITH
MIGHT REACT TO OUR BROACHING HIS NEW PROPOSAL WITH
KAUNDA (AND POSSIBLY NYERERE AND MACHEL) WITHOUT GOING
DIRECTLY TO NKOMO IS, OF COURSE, A SERIOUS QUESTION.

5. WE REALIZE THAT THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION ARE
BECOMING TERRIBLY COMPLICATED. REFTEL WAS TIMELY AND
USEFUL. WE REGRET THAT OUR COUSIN'S INSISTENCE UPON
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SO HIGHLY DISCREET AND COMPARTIMENTALIZED HANDLING OF
THESE MATTERS DOES NOT ALLOW FOR BETTER COORDINATION
WITH YOU, BUT THERE WE ARE. YOU ARE DOING A SPLENDID JOB.

6. SINCE FOREGOING WAS DRAFTED AND TYPED, WE HAVE RECEIVED
AND THE SECRETARY HAS APPROVED WITH FURTHER MODIFICATION
WHICH PETER JAY WAS EMPOWERED TO ACCEPT, REVISED INSTRUCTIO
NS TO INTERMEDIARY. THESE ARE BEING FLASHED TO GRAHAM
DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON. VANCE

SECRET

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